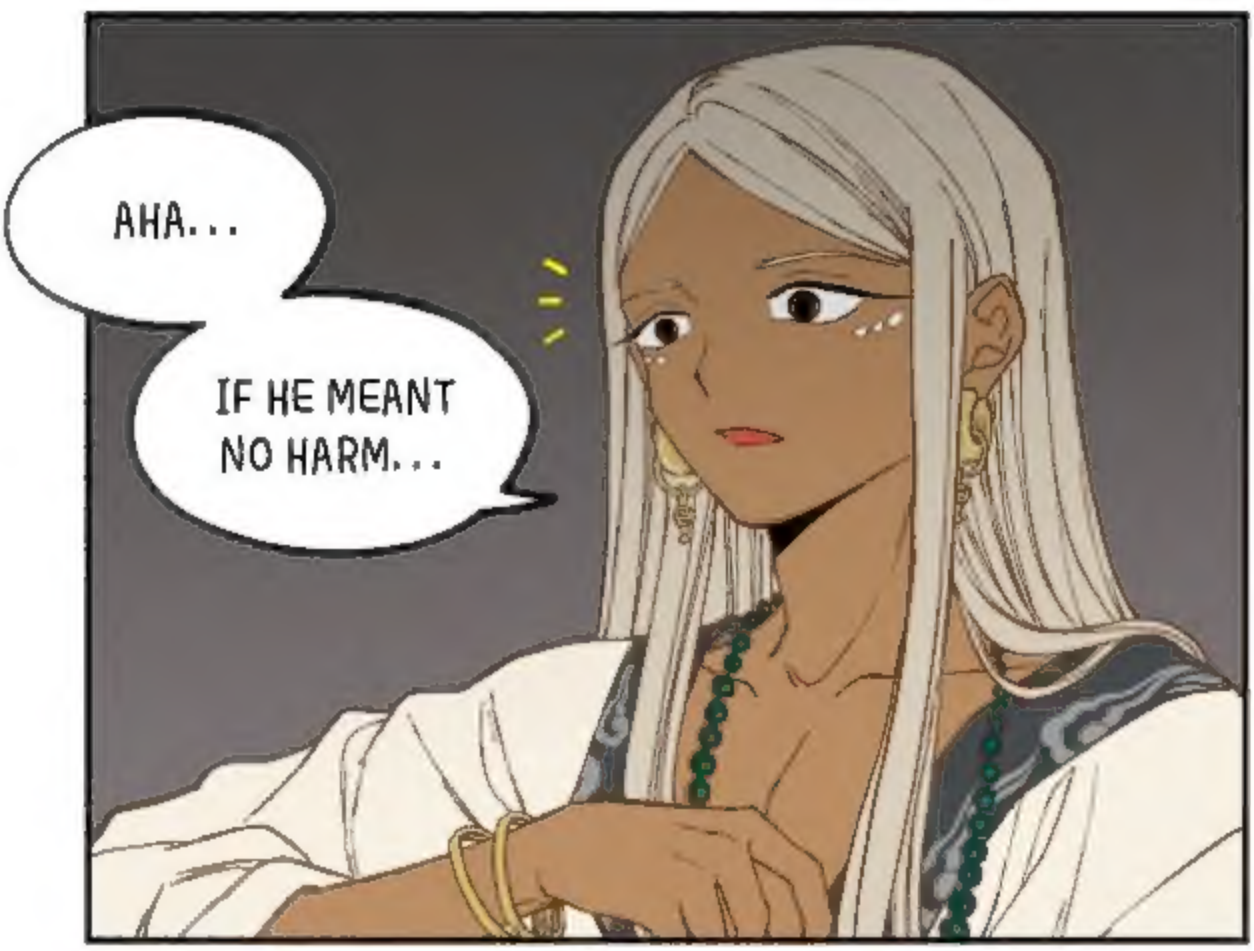
MY GOODNESS.
FLUTTER
NOW THAT I'VE LIVED THIS LONG,
I'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
SOME IMOOGI DIGS THROUGH MY MOUNTAIN...
...THERE ARE LOW-RANKING

MORTAL CREATURES ALL OVER THE PLACE...

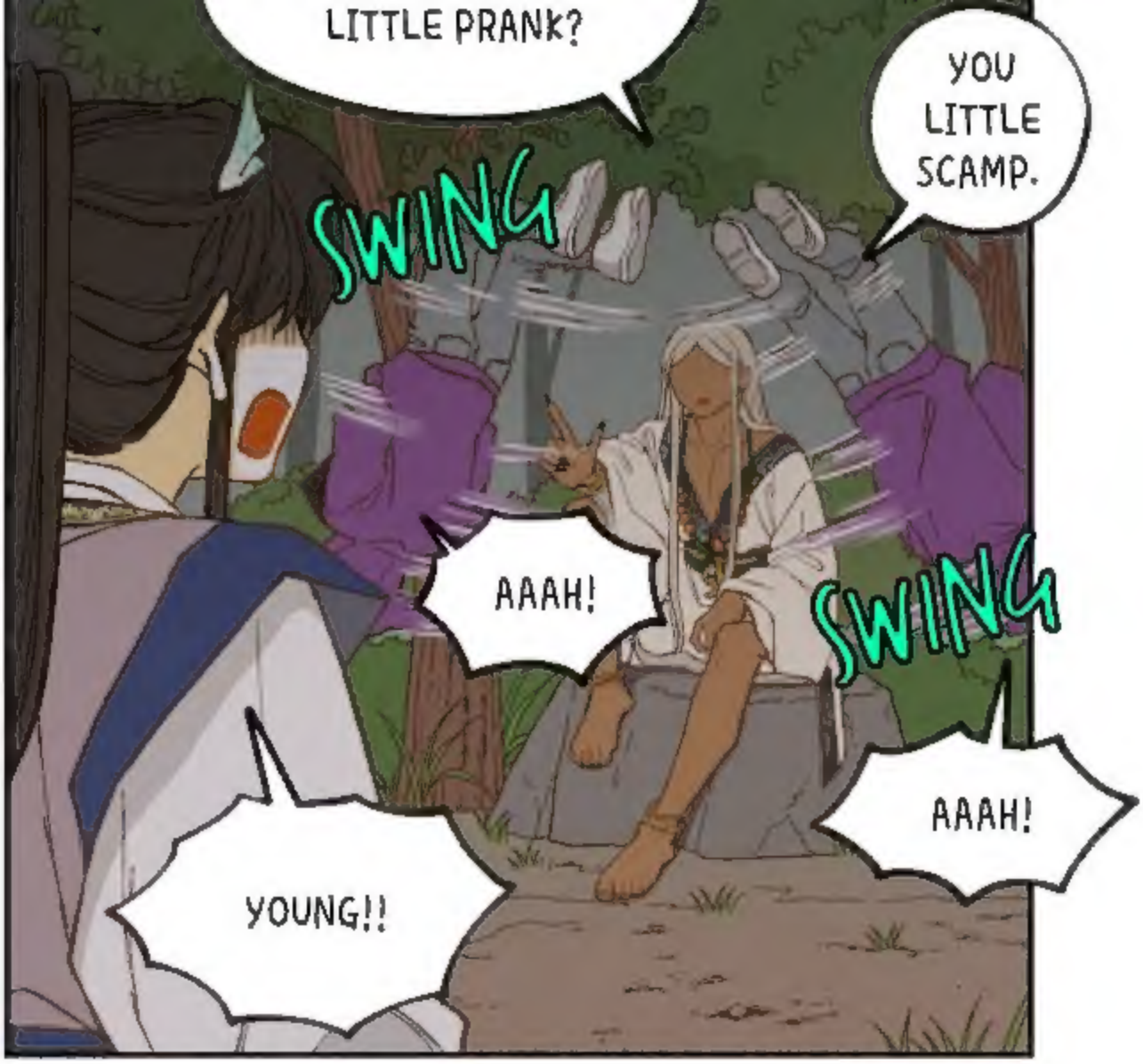
NOW.

FLICK
TELL ME.
HOW SHALL I...
...PUNISH YOU SCOUNDRELS?

I-I APOLOGIZE, SIR...!
THE HUMAN MEANT NO HARM...


AHA...
IF HE MEANT NO HARM...

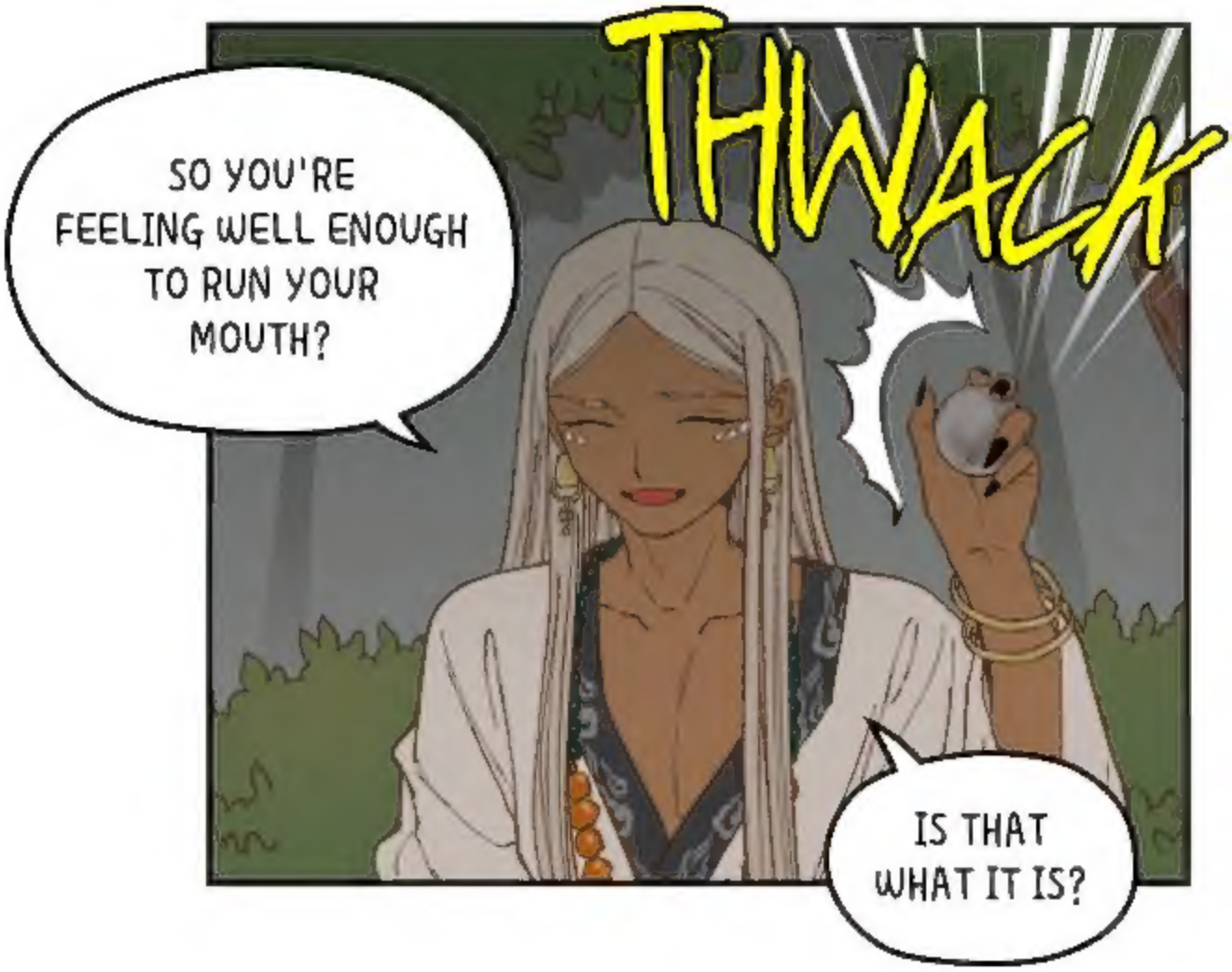
WHY DON'T I ALSO PLAY A HARMLESS


LITTLE PRANK?
YOU LITTLE SCAMP.
SWING
AAAH!
SWING
AAAH!
YOUNG!!

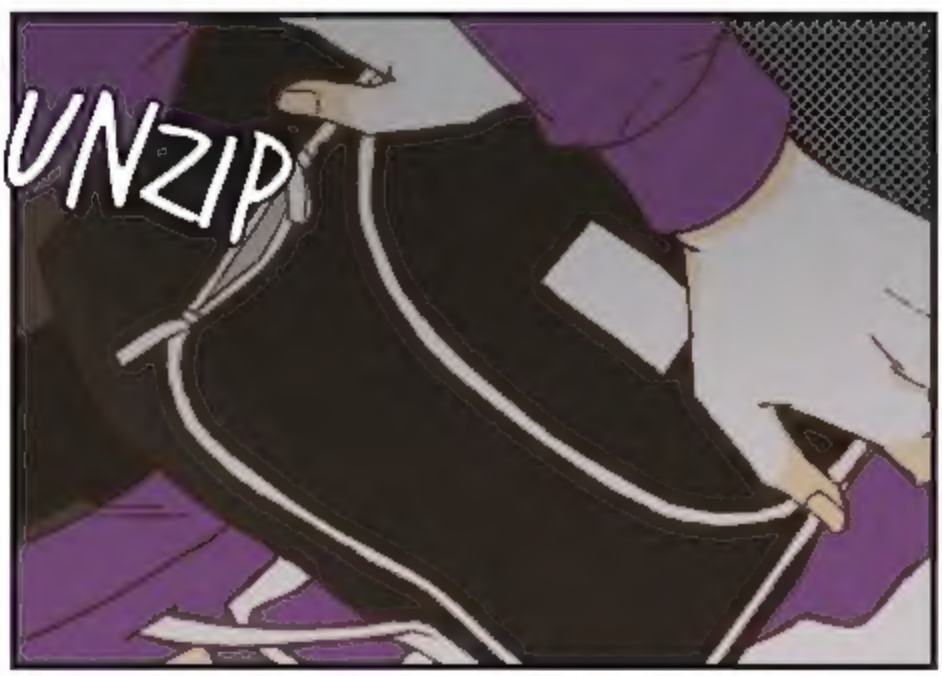
AND YOU.
POINT

ARE YOU AN IMOOGI? YOU ARE HOLDING SOMETHING FAR BEYOND YOUR STATUS.

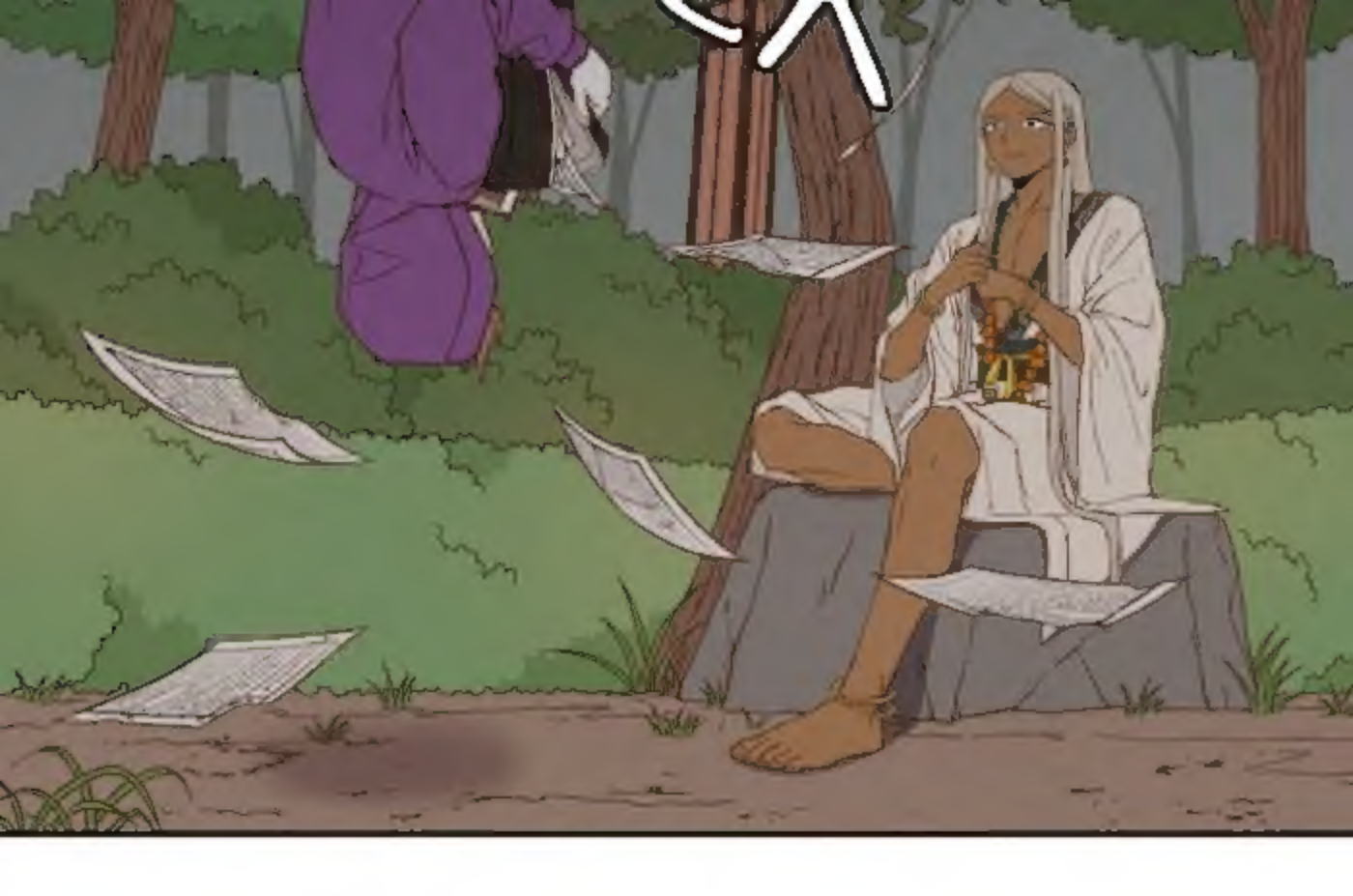
OH...!
FWOOM
WAIT, THAT'S--


THWACK
SO YOU'RE FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO RUN YOUR MOUTH?
IS THAT WHAT IT IS?

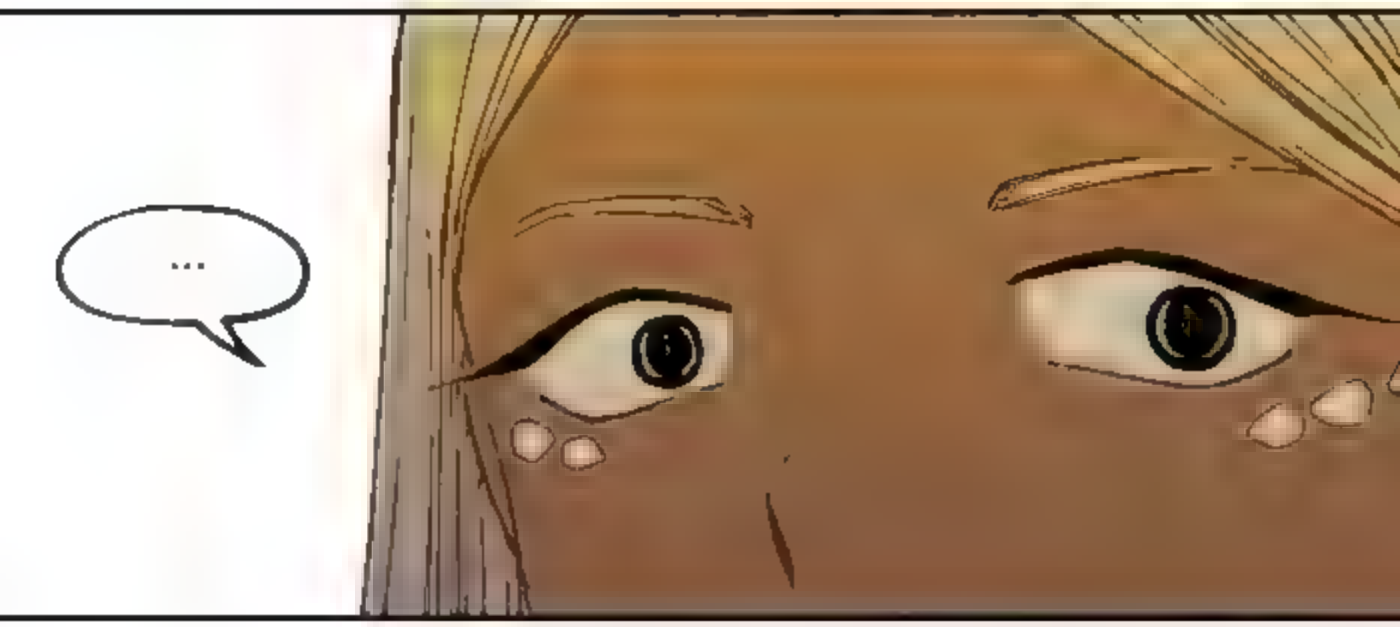
NO MORE...
SWING
SWING
PLEASE, I'M GETTING


UNZIP

FLUTTER

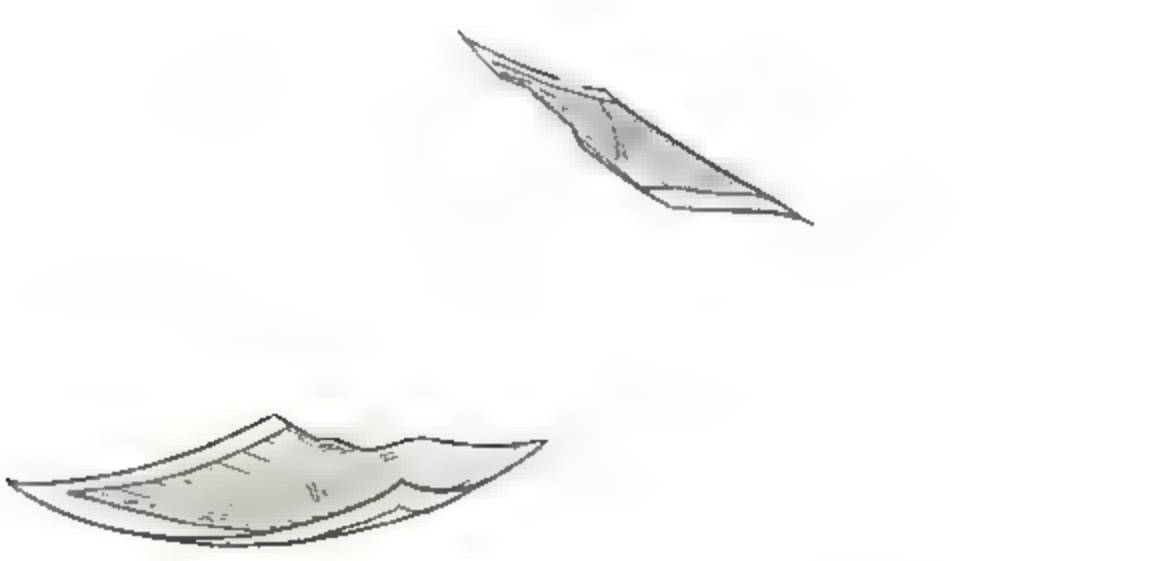


FLUTTER
...

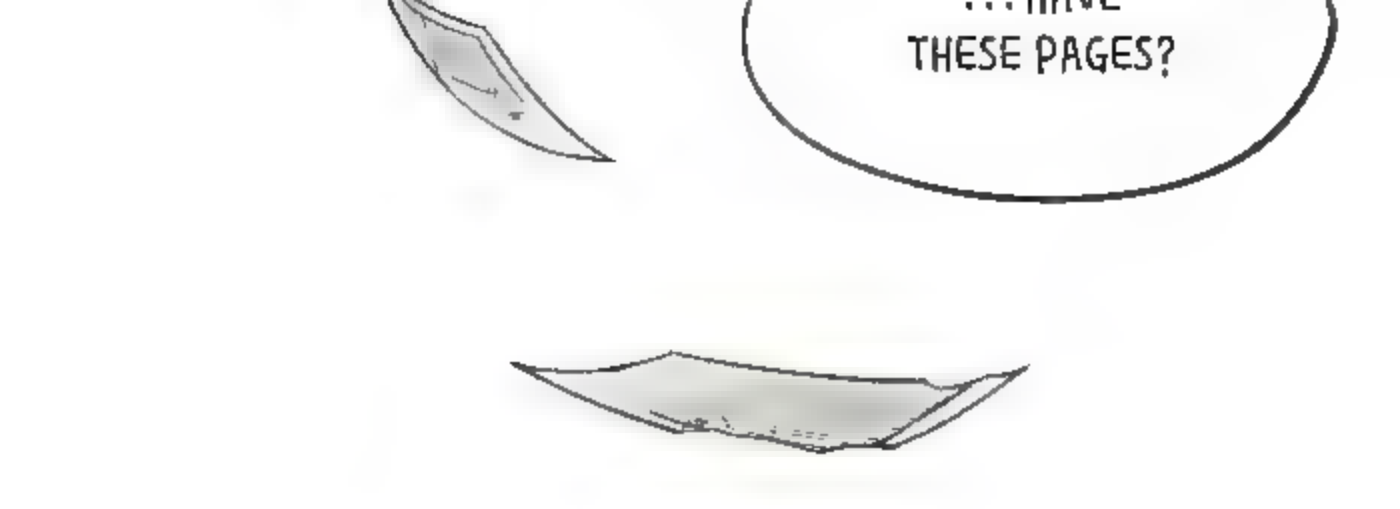

...

YOUNG!

HOW
DO YOU...

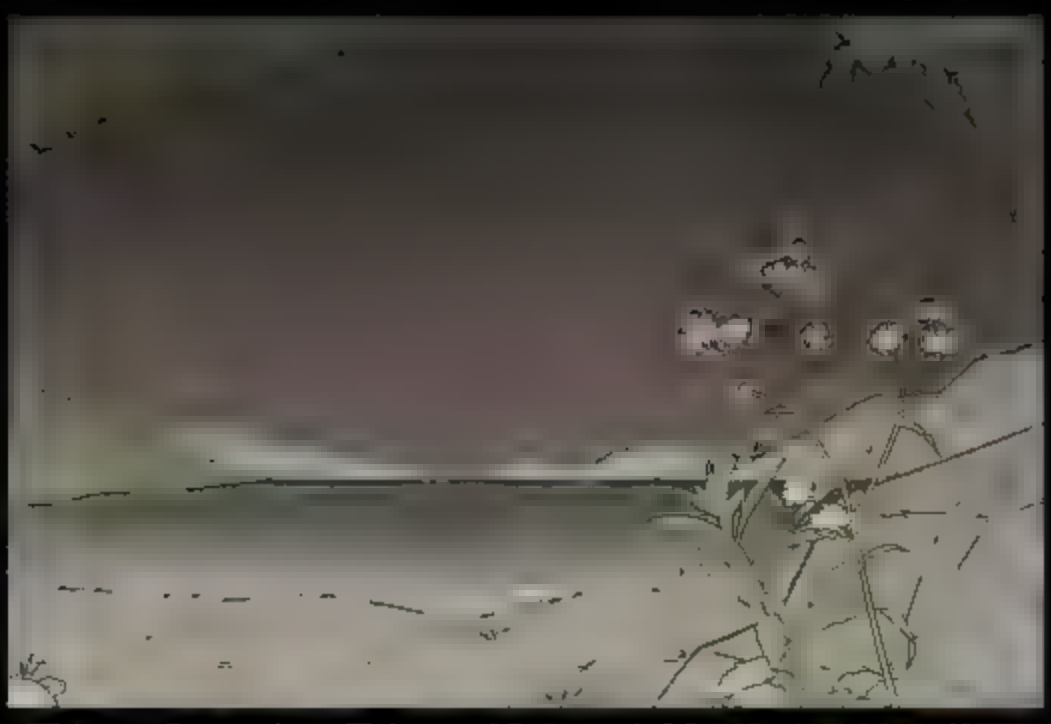


HAVE



How to become a dragon

- EPISODE 152 -



YOU'VE TAKEN IN A HUMAN?
IT PROBABLY

WON'T BE MUCH FUN...

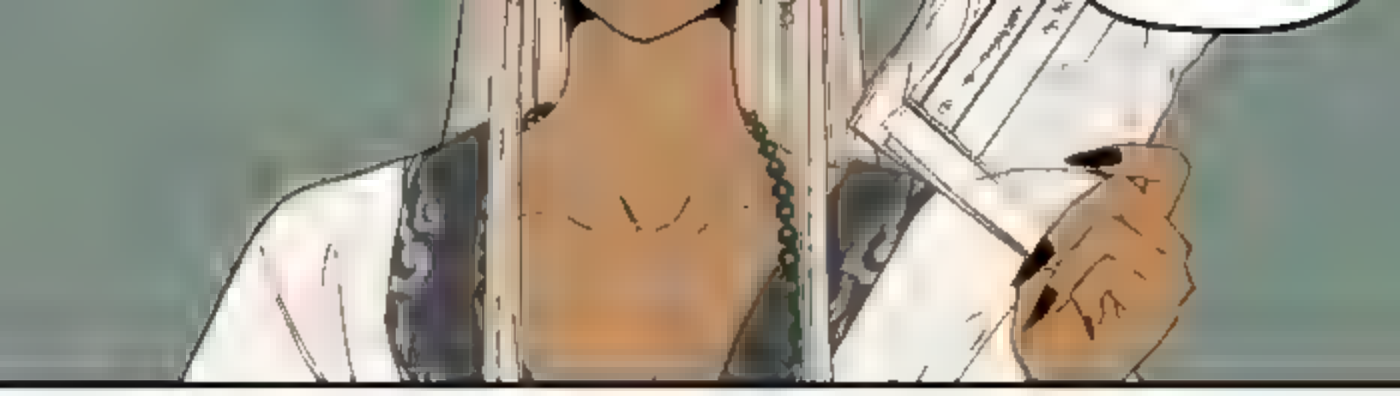
MY SERVANTS WERE IN A PANIC AND BROUGHT ME A CHILD ON THE VERGE OF DROWNING TO DEATH.

WHAT ELSE COULD I HAVE DONE?

WHY'D THEY DO THAT?

THE CHILD LOOKS A GREAT DEAL LIKE ME.
NO.
PERHAPS I AM THE ONE WHO RESEMBLES HIM.

SO, YOU'RE SAYING...
...YOU BROUGHT THESE FROM THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON PALACE?
BY YOURSELVES?



HOW SAD.
I KNOW IMOOGIS ARE DESPERATE FOR A BODY OF WATER TO CALL THEIR OWN...
...BUT HOW COULD YOU THINK TO ENTER THAT FILTHY WATER?

BY ANY CHANCE...
...DO YOU KNOW WHO THE OWNER OF THAT JOURNAL IS?

NO, NO.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR YOU TO BE ASKING QUESTIONS

LIKE THAT. YOU SHOULD BE BEGGING ON YOUR KNEES.

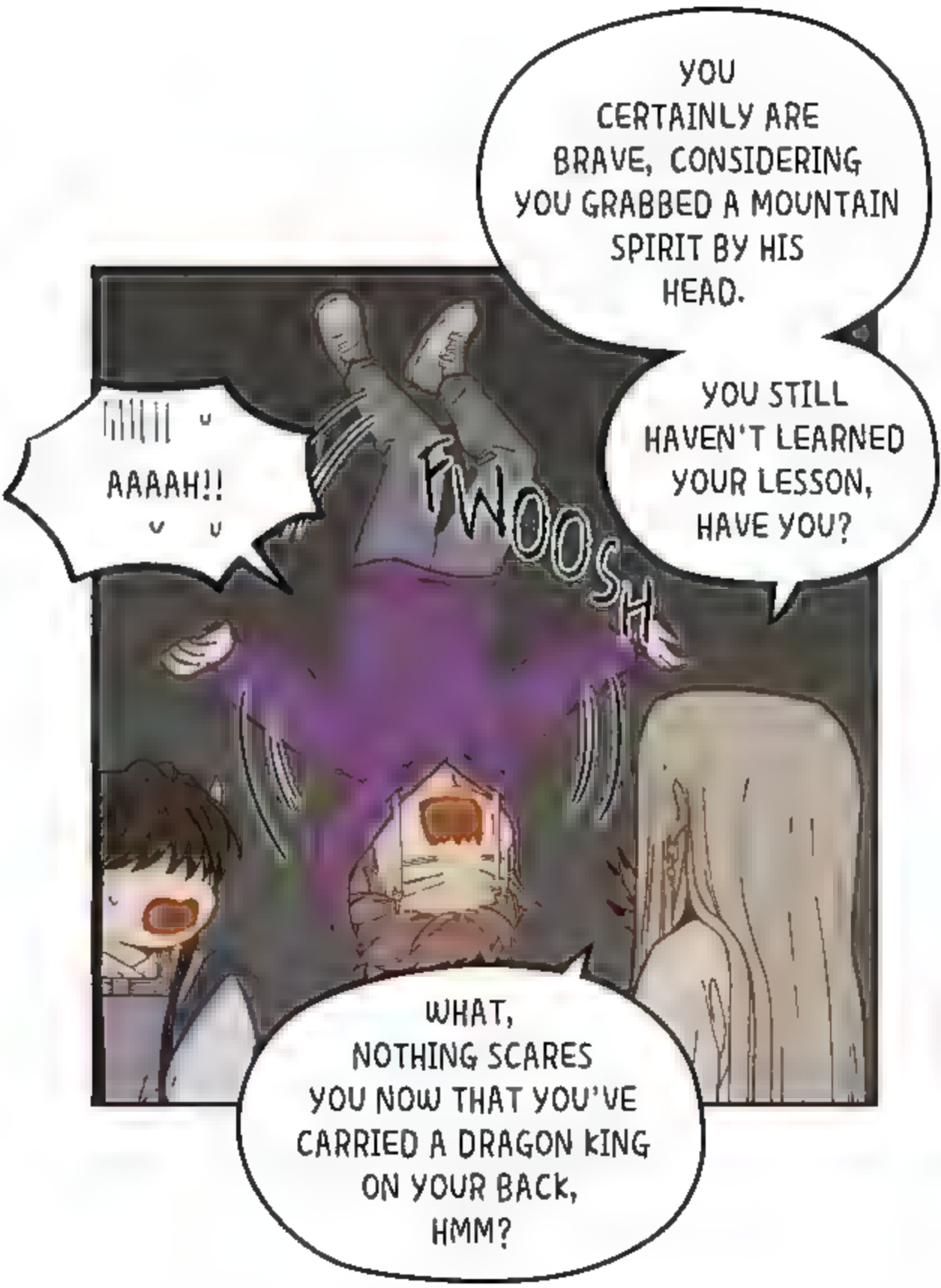
HOW WILL YOU ATONE FOR THE SIN OF TAKING ITEMS FROM THE PALACE AS YOU PLEASE JUST BECAUSE THE MASTER OF THE PALACE IS GONE?
YOU'RE AN IMOOGI. EVEN IF THE OWNER OF THE PALACE IS DEAD, HE IS STILL YOUR SUPERIOR.
HOW DARE YOU LAY YOUR HANDS ON HIS BELONGINGS?

WELL, WHAT WERE

WE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN A DRAGON KING IS THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO DO IT? THEY'RE SUPERIOR TO THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON.
JUST DOING AS WERE TOLD
I'M SORRY WE HAD TO TAKE A DEAD PERSON'S THINGS, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAD ANY FAMILY THAT WE COULD GET PERMISSION FROM, AND ALL OF THE RIVER CREATURES ARE DEAD...

AHA...
IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GETTING IN THE WAY OF US DOING OUR JOBS, SIR...
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
THIS ISN'T EVEN

YOU DON'T HAVE JURISDICTION.


YOU CERTAINLY ARE BRAVE, CONSIDERING YOU GRABBED A MOUNTAIN SPIRIT BY HIS HEAD.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON, HAVE YOU?
AAAAH!!
FWOOSH
WHAT, NOTHING SCARES YOU NOW THAT YOU'VE CARRIED A DRAGON KING ON YOUR BACK, HMM?

I-IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DRAGON KING...

HOW ABOUT THAT TIGER? WE'RE CLOSE WITH THE TIGER MOUNTAIN SPIRIT FROM MOUNT BAEKUN-- WHOOOA!

UM

WHY WOULD I CARE WHICH MOUNTAIN THAT IMOOGI IS FROM?

T-THEN WHAT ABOUT THE SAMJEONG MOUNTAIN SPIRIT? YOU KNOW, THE RABBIT?

...!

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN...
...HIS FRIEND.

OWNER OF THE JOURNAL...
...
...BUT THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON.
THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON...
...TRAINED IN MOUNT TAEBAEK, DIDN'T HE?

WE ARE NOT TRYING TO DESTROY YOUR FRIEND'S BELONGINGS!
WE SIMPLY WANT TO RETURN HIS ORB TO THE NAKDONG RIVER...
BOW
WE WILL TAKE IT BACK AS RESPECTFULLY AS POSSIBLE, SO PLEASE GIVE THE ORB TO US.

SO YOU ARE SAYING THAT IF YOU WANT TO BECOME THE NEW NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON...
...YOU NEED THE ORB OF MUNROK, WHO WAS KILLED BY THE NAKDONG RIVER...
WHAT A CRUEL TASK.

PARDON?

STAND
HIS NAME WAS MUNROk.
HE HAS FINALLY ESCAPED THAT TERRIBLE RIVER THROUGH DEATH.
LET'S NOT CALL HIM...
...BY THE NAME OF THAT FILTHY RIVER.

W-WAIT!
WHAT ABOUT THE ORB...?

THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER TO YOUR TASK.
WSHHH

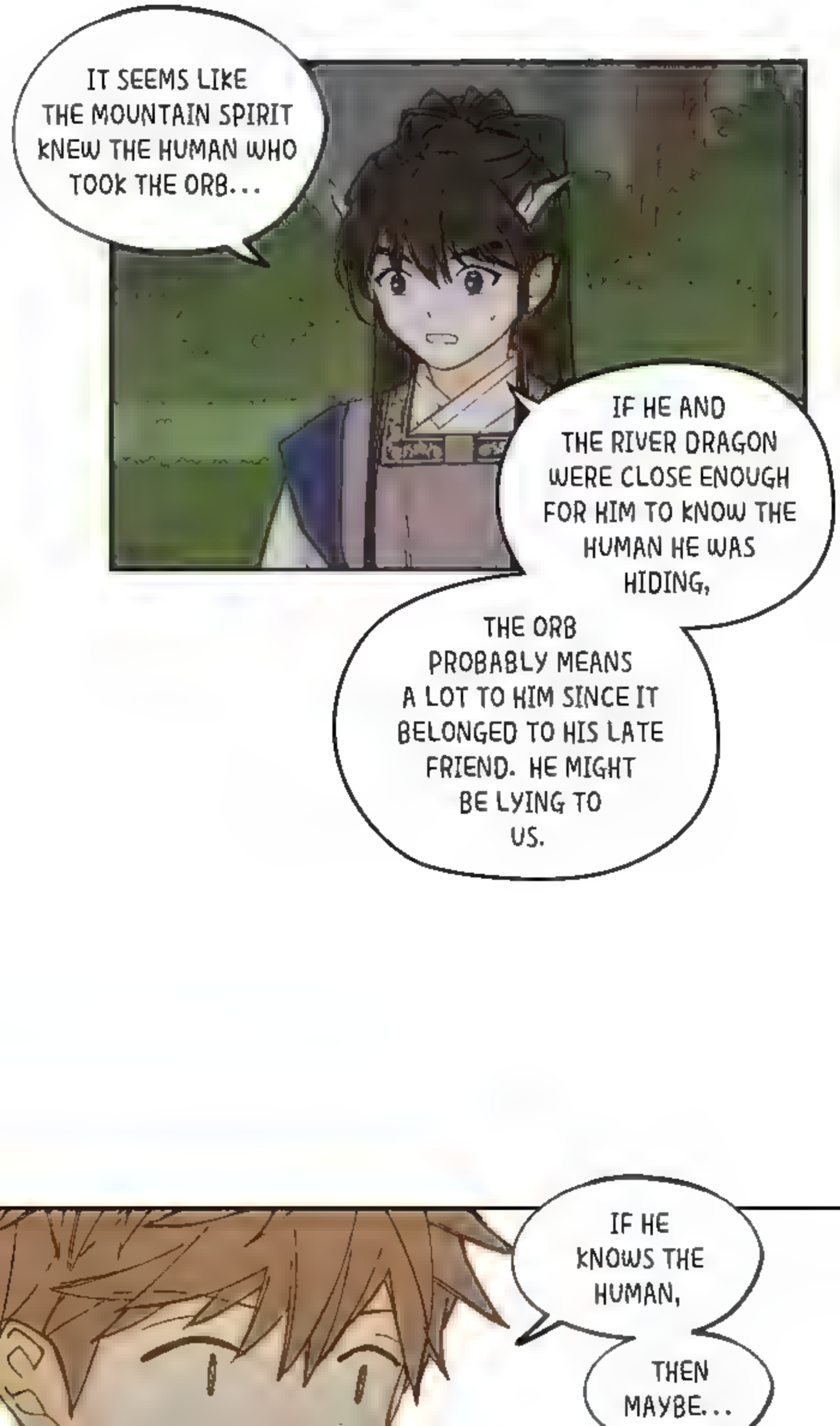
IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE IT BACK.
I AM TIRED.
FWSHHH
STOP ACTING FOOLISH AND RETURN TO WHENCE YOU CAME.

PHEW!
POOF

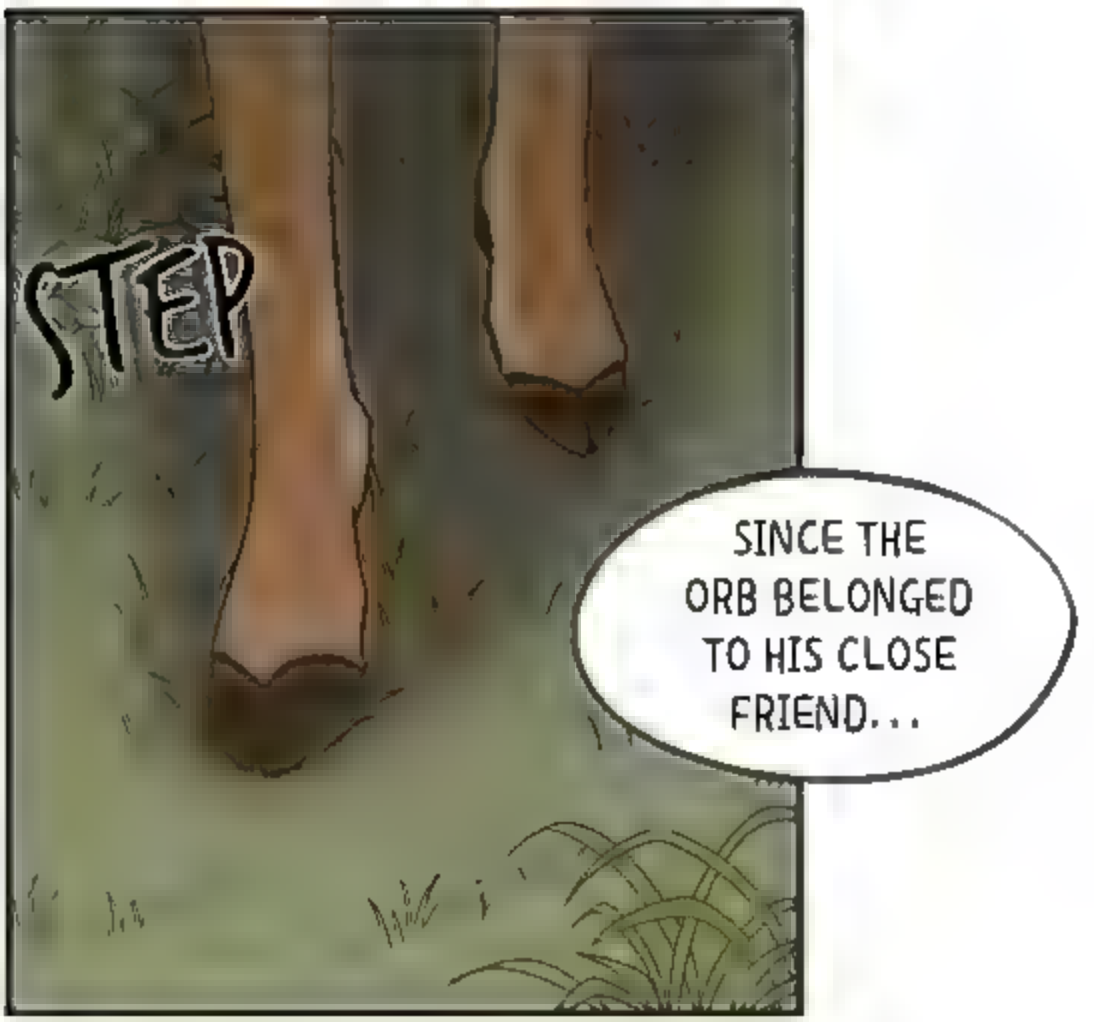
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT APPEARED SO SUDDENLY...
AND YOU EVEN GRABBED HIM BY THE HEAD SO IMPUDENTLY...!

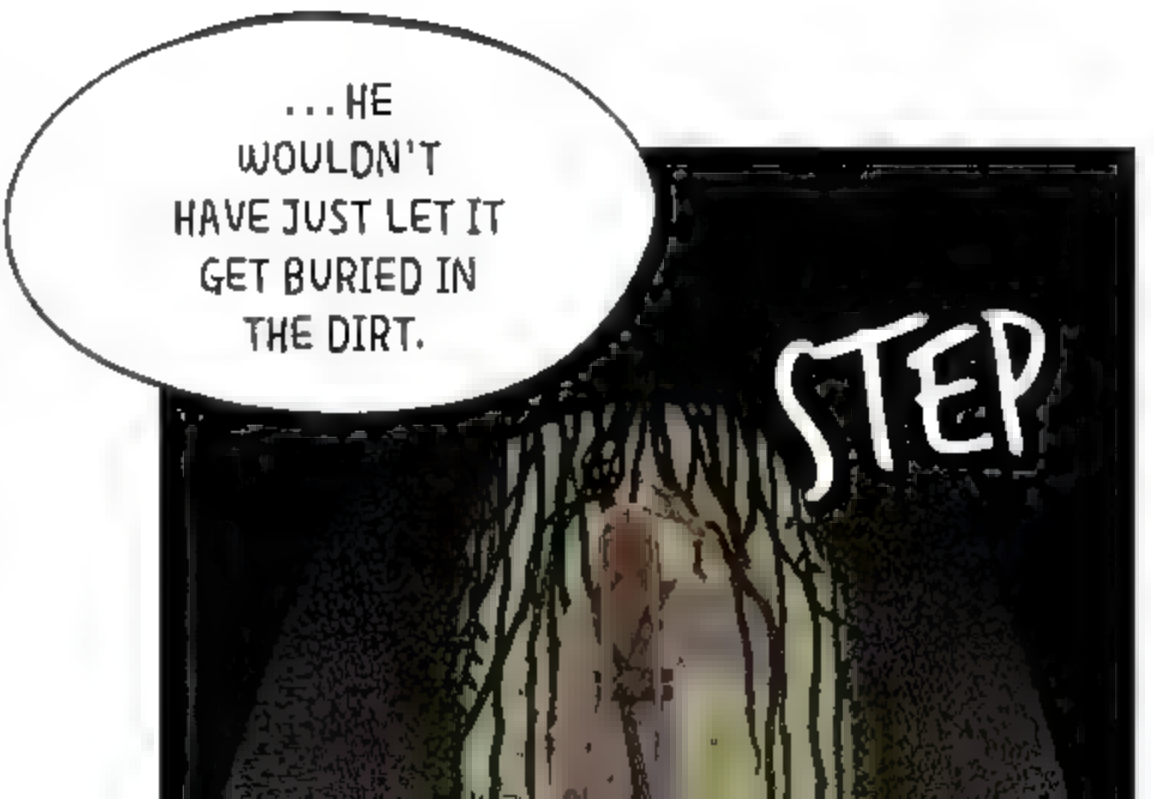
OOF!
CRASH
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
I WAS SO SCARED, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.

WAIT, SO THAT'S NOT THE ORB?
I MEAN, YOU DID SAY YOU DIDN'T FEEL ANY ENERGY FROM IT...

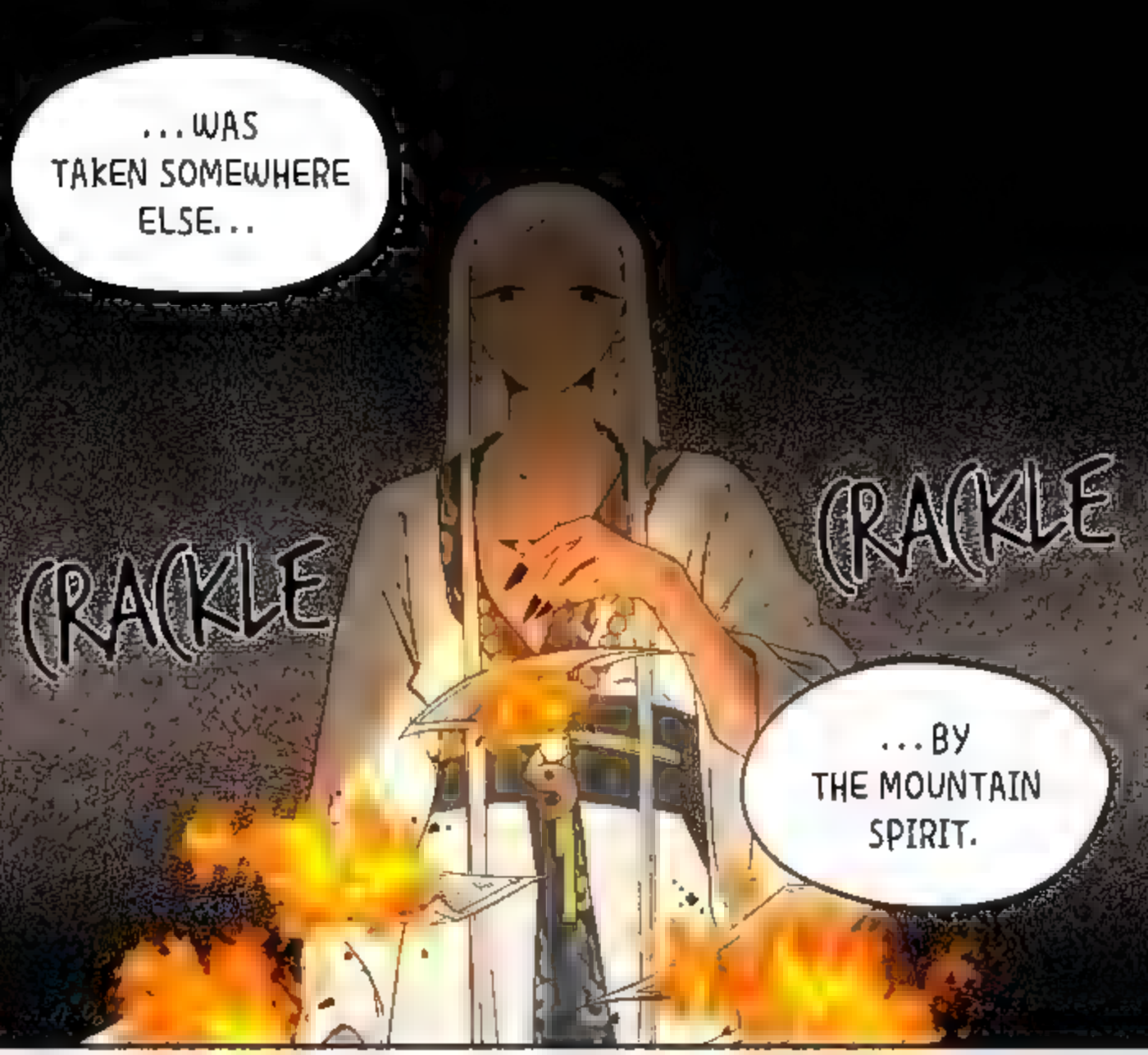

IT SEEMS LIKE THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT KNEW THE HUMAN WHO TOOK THE ORB...
IF HE AND THE RIVER DRAGON WERE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR HIM TO KNOW THE HUMAN HE WAS HIDING,
THE ORB PROBABLY MEANS A LOT TO HIM SINCE IT BELONGED TO HIS LATE FRIEND. HE MIGHT BE LYING TO US.
IF HE KNOWS THE HUMAN,
THEN MAYBE...

...HE WITNESSED...
...THE HUMAN'S DEATH, TOO.


STEP
SINCE THE ORB BELONGED TO HIS CLOSE FRIEND...


...HE WOULDN'T HAVE JUST LET IT GET BURIED IN THE DIRT.
STEP

THE HUMAN DEFINITELY DIED HERE, LIKE WE WERE TOLD...
FWOOSH
...BUT THE NAKDONG RIVER ORB...


...WAS TAKEN SOMEWHERE ELSE...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
...BY THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT.

THIS IS QUITE A PREDICAMENT.

HE THINKS POORLY OF THE ENTIRE NAKDONG RIVER.
THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL JUST GIVE US THE ORB AND LET US TAKE IT BACK THERE...

IF HE'S HIDDEN IT WELL ENOUGH TO GO UNNOTICED BY THE DRAGON KING,
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND IT...?
STARE
HMM... WELL...

CAN'T WE JUST HAVE HER LOOK FOR IT AGAIN?
STARTLE
M-ME?

O-OH,
I-I-I...
P-PLEASE
KILL ME
INSTEAD!
BOW
HUH?
WHAT? WHY?
WEREN'T YOU
ALL EAGER TO HELP
JUST A MINUTE
AGO?

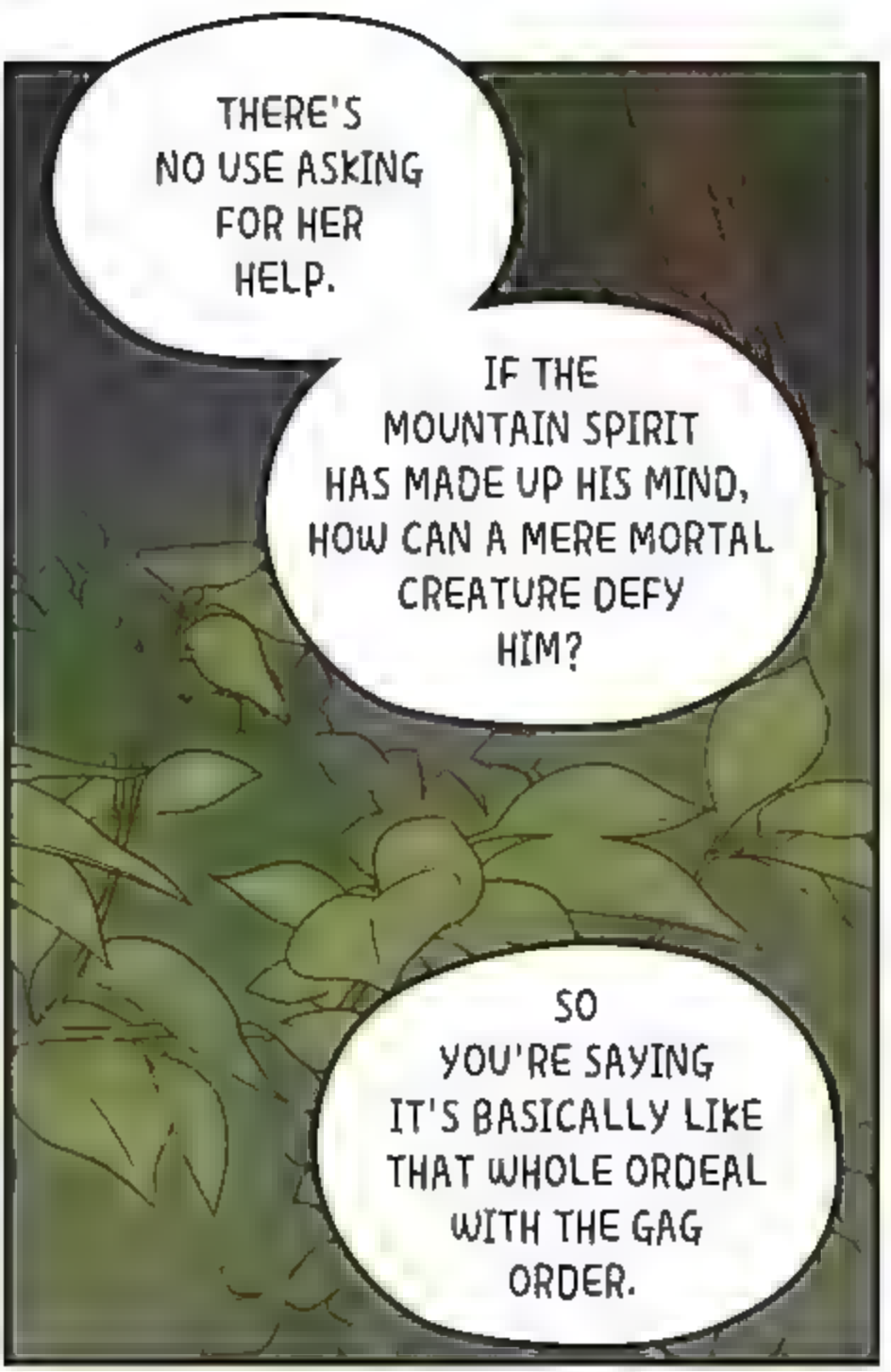
IT'S FINE.

YOU'VE HELPED US ENOUGH. YOU CAN RETURN TO THE SWAMP.
YOU WERE A GREAT HELP.
AFTER THE EXAM IS OVER, I WILL UPHOLD MY PROMISE TO YOU.

GOOD LUCK.

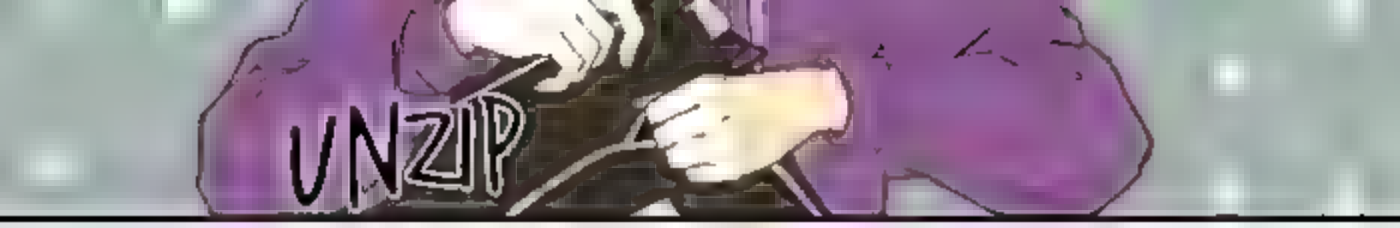
LORD BARI.

WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
THINGS ARE LOOKING WORSE, AND NOW YOU JUST REDUCED THE SIZE OF OUR TEAM...

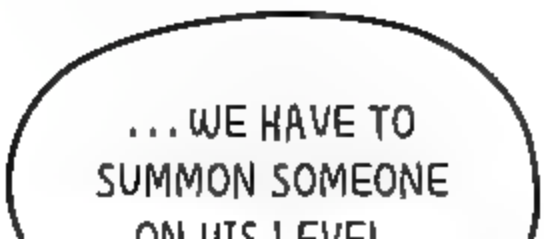

THERE'S NO USE ASKING FOR HER HELP.
IF THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT HAS MADE UP HIS MIND, HOW CAN A MERE MORTAL CREATURE DEFY HIM?
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S BASICALLY LIKE THAT WHOLE ORDEAL WITH THE GAG ORDER.

EVEN IF EVERY CREATURE ON MOUNT TAEBAEK KNOWS WHERE THE ORB IS...
...NONE OF THEM COULD TELL US.

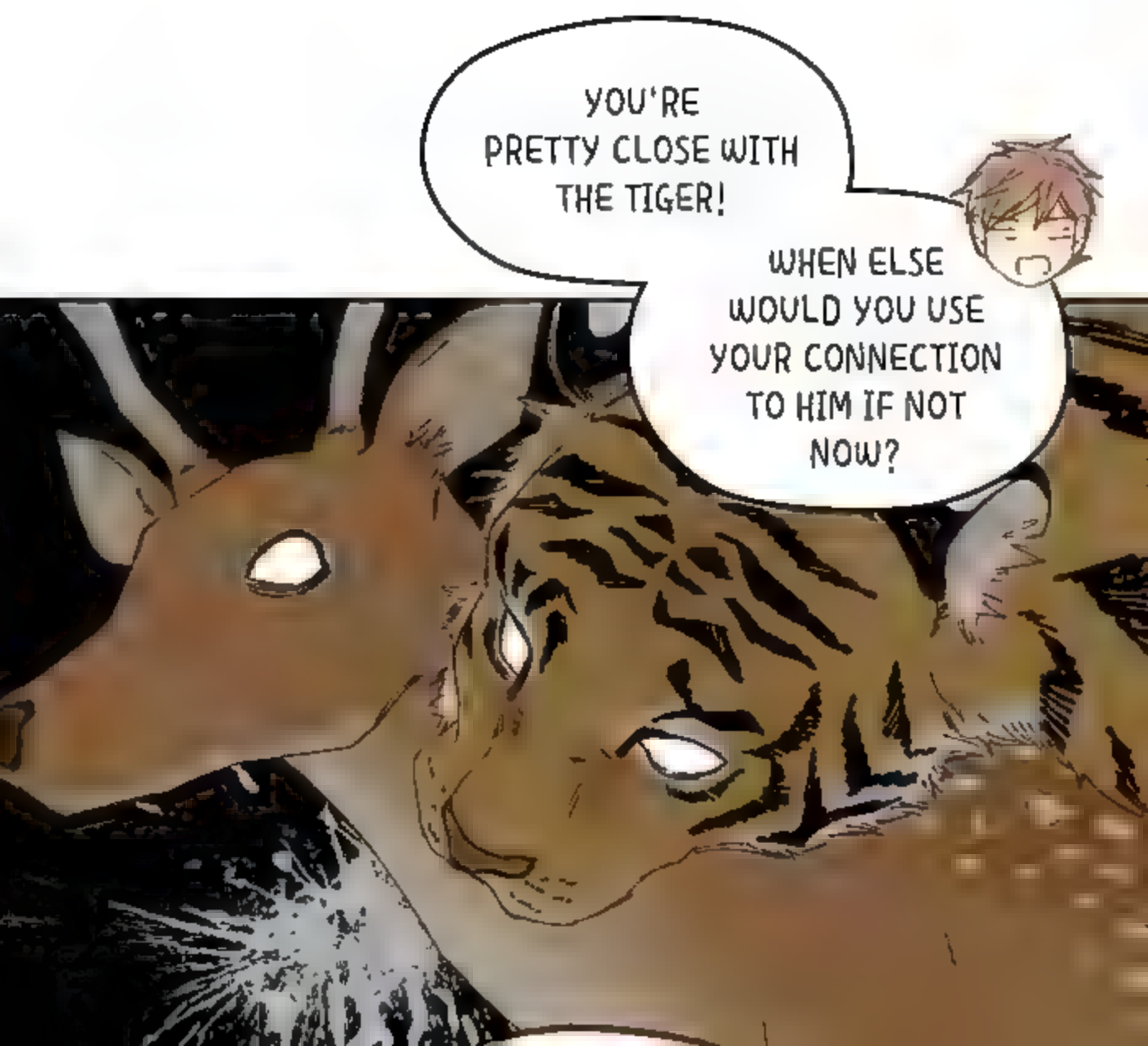
THEN I GUESS...
...THIS IS OUR ONLY OPTION.


UNZIP

...!
DO YOU HAVE A CLEVER PLAN?
I KNEW YOU WOULD
IF WE WANT TO OVERTURN A RULE THAT THE BOSS MADE...


...WE HAVE TO SUMMON SOMEONE

ON HIS LEVEL.
LET'S GET THE TIGER MOUNTAIN SPIRIT OVER HERE!
FREEZE
H-HUH...?
LORD MUHO...?


YOU'RE PRETTY CLOSE WITH THE TIGER!
WHEN ELSE WOULD YOU USE YOUR CONNECTION TO HIM IF NOT NOW?

IT'S OBVIOUS WHO'D WIN IN A FIGHT BETWEEN A DEER AND A TIGER.

TOTAL-SHOO-IN

T-THAT'S...

NOT A GOOD IDEA...

I'M KIDDING.

DON'T TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY

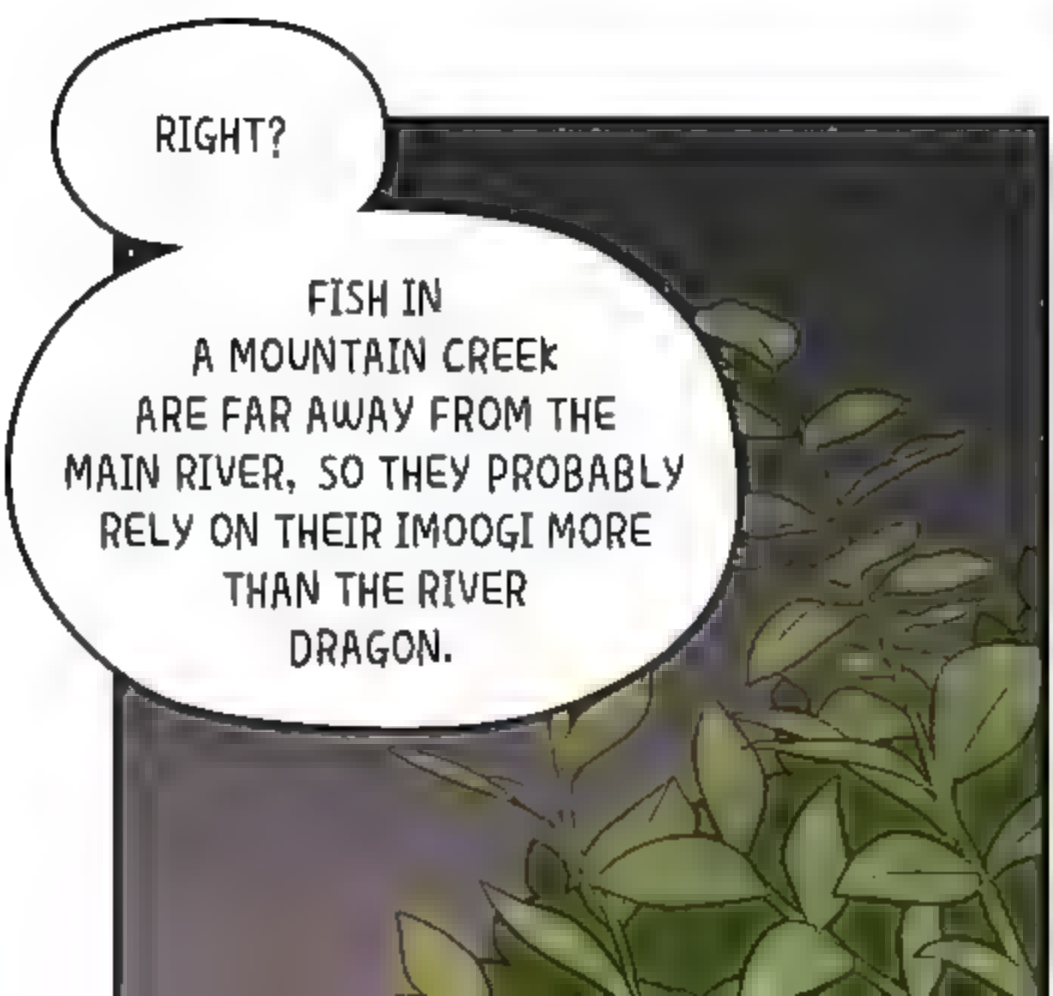
BUT
I DO MEAN IT
WHEN I SAY WE NEED TO
USE A HIGHER RANK
AGAINST HIM.
NOM
A HIGHER
RANK...?

MOUNTAIN
SPIRITS AND DRAGONS
ARE PRETTY MUCH THE
SAME IN TERMS
OF RANK.
SO YOU
WANT US TO BRING
A DRAGON KING SINCE
THEY HAVE A HIGHER
RANK?
NO, THERE'S

NO WAY WE'D BE ABLE TO DO THAT...

I SAW THIS WHILE I WAS LOOKING UP HWANGJI POND EARLIER...
...BUT IS IT TRUE THAT IF YOU GET 2500 FISH TO SERVE YOU, YOU BECOME AN IMOOGI?

2500...?
WELL... THEY CAN'T BECOME OFFICIAL SERVANTS...
...BUT CREATURES ARE MORE LIKELY TO SERVE AN IMOOGI FROM THE SAME WATERS AS THEM.


RIGHT?
FISH IN A MOUNTAIN CREEK ARE FAR AWAY FROM THE MAIN RIVER, SO THEY PROBABLY RELY ON THEIR IMOOGI MORE THAN THE RIVER DRAGON.

THEY LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS, BUT SINCE THEY ARE IN THE WATER, THEY AREN'T RULED BY THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT.
CHEONRYONG'S GAG ORDER...
...MAY HAVE KEPT ALL DRAGONS, INCLUDING THE DRAGON KINGS, FROM OPENING THEIR MOUTHS...

BUT THE GAG ORDER DIDN'T APPLY...
...TO THE SAMJEONG MOUNTAIN SPIRIT.

SO...

IF YOU WERE A CREATURE OF HWANGJI POND...
...WHOSE ORDERS WOULD YOU OBEY?
A MOUNTAIN SPIRIT OR AN IMOOGI?